



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

Office of Operations, Eligibility & Pharmacy
Medical Care Programs

Charles E. Lehman
Executive Director

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Nursing Home Transmittal No. 200
Pharmacy Transmittal No. 180
March 9, 2006

TO: Nursing Home Administrators
Pharmacies Providers

FROM: Charles E. Lehman, Executive Director 
Office of Operations, Eligibility and Pharmacy

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

RE: **Retroactive Eligibility Determination and Medicare Part D Excluded Drug Coverage**

The Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit began January 1, 2006. Medicare replaced the Maryland Medicaid Program as the payer of prescription medications for recipients eligible for Medicare. For fully eligible Medicaid recipients with Medicare (full duals), Medicare Prescription Drug Plans will be the payer for prescription drugs.

Under federal law certain drugs are excluded from the Part D Program. Medicaid Programs are allowed to cover excluded drugs for full dual recipients. Of these excluded drugs, the Maryland Medicaid Program only covers prescriptions for barbiturates, benzodiazepines, legend vitamins and legend cough/cold preparations. These medications will continue to be covered by the Medicaid Program for full dual recipients with Medicare Part D coverage.

If an individual is retroactively determined eligible for Medicaid, the Program will only cover excluded drugs provided to the recipient since the start date of their Medicaid eligibility.

Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to the Division of Pharmacy Services at 410-767-1455.

cc: Nursing Home Liaison Committee